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PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

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CUFOS - ACOS SUCCESSFULLY IN OPERATION

On his return to America after visiting Australia in late 1973, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy, Northwestern University, Illinois, founded the Centre for UFO Studies, with headquarters in Evanston, Ill. The aim of the Centre, which is entirely supported by private funds, is to collect and scientifically analyse the observations of UFO phenomena as they are reported from around the world, and it has succeeded in gaining the co-operation of a number of official bodies in the U.S. Over 5,000 police departments and sheriff's offices across America have been given the number of the Centre's private nation-wide telephone line, as has also the pilots' organisation. The Smithsonian Institution is assisting by forwarding any UFO reports they receive, and the Federal Aviation Administration has acknowledged the existence of the Centre, and has co-operated to some extent by changing its Facility Management Handbook to include the following: "A 'Centre for UFO Studies' has been established to conduct a continuing research effort to discover the nature and source of the phenomenon. You may expect calls from this scientific establishment regarding UFO reported sightings. Respond to their requests on a workload permitting basis".

The Centre aims eventually to spread its network on a world-wide basis, and Australia has joined the organisation with the launching in November, 1974 of the Centre for UFO Studies - Australian Co-ordination Section. With headquarters in Gosford, NSW, ACOS is co-ordinated by Harry Griesberg and David Seargent, and its job is to collect detailed information on cases investigated in Australia for dispatching to the American Centre. ACOS has published two bulletins reporting on its progress so far, and has announced that all states are now co-operating, with almost every organisation and some individual researchers taking part. Reports on 46 cases have already been forwarded to America, including 5 from VUFORS.

Some developments reported by ACOS:

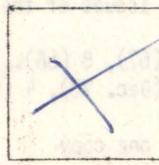
A copy of the ACOS Introductory Bulletin was sent to the RAAF, who said in reply: "In discussion between the Director of Air Force Intelligence and Professor Hynek it was agreed that the RAAF would make available selected, more interesting cases to Professor Hynek. Thank you for your interest and you may be assured that we will assist where we consider it appropriate to do so".

CUFOS is developing rapidly, so much so, in fact, that Dr. Hynek has resigned as Chairman of the Department of Astronomy in order to devote more time to the Centre. He remains as Professor of Astronomy.

(Continued on page 2.)

IMPORTANT

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Australian members... \$4.20 (Pensioners and juniors under 18 years
Overseas members... US\$2.50. ... \$2.10

Some help from the F.B.I. has been secured, with the February, 1975 issue of the Bureau's official publication, "FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin", carrying a long article about the Centre. The article begins by telling how law enforcement personnel can be of assistance to the Centre, and discusses several cases in which police have witnessed UFOs. It describes the origin of UFO CENTRAL, discussing the co-operation of Mr. James Slavin, Director of Northwestern University's Traffic Institute, in helping the Centre to originally distribute several thousand directives to police chiefs and sheriffs across the country. It stresses the official use of this number, and lists particular questions a law officer should ask a witness. It gives the history of the Centre and of public opinion. There is a discussion of UFO types and of common misperceptions. In the weeks following the article's publication, the Centre received over 100 inquiries for the "toll-free hot line" number from various law enforcement agencies.

CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN UFO RESEARCHERS

Australia's first conference on UFOs is being organised jointly by ACOS and UFO Research of South Australia. This conference, to be known as "UFOCON ONE", will be held at Gosford, NSW, on Oct. 4, 5 and 6, 1975, and at this stage almost all major organisations and several independent researchers have indicated they will attend. The aim is for two or three research representatives from each Australian organisation to get together for a series of discussions on the state of UFO research in Australia. Methods of operation of the various groups will be discussed, with a view to standardising and improving procedures in order to facilitate a more effective interchange of information.

The conference should be a valuable step forward in the attempt to make UFO research in Australia more co-ordinated and effective. Several representatives from VUFORS will be attending.

SIGHTINGS CONVERT A UFO SCEPTIC

A newsman and radio director has compiled an astounding list of recent sightings of UFOs in the Minnesota area and says that something important is happening. A number of the sightings come from law enforcement officials and other responsible members of the community, says Michael J. Douglas. "At first I was sceptical about the reports", said Douglas. "However, after two sightings of my own, I eventually became a confirmed believer". He said he had investigated more than 130 cases a large percentage of which took place within a mile radius. Since his own observations, Douglas has been active in forming a nation-wide network of stations that collect UFO data from listeners throughout the US....

-Perth Sunday Times, 13/4/1975.

CANADIAN UFO PHOTOS

Authenticated daylight photographs of "flying saucers" in southern Ontario have astounded police, astronomers, scientists, politicians and the military. The photographs follow weeks of sightings by people Canadian police described as "sensible and mature...they are not maniacs". Dr. Frank Maine, the only scientist in the Canadian parliament, says the photographs "may provide irrefutable evidence space craft are flying over Ontario. The photographs are probably the breakthrough we've been waiting for".

The photos were taken by 19 year old Pat McCarthy on March 18, 1975, while he was hunting for birds in the Ontario countryside. "I looked up and saw an object about twice the size of a DC8 zigzagging through the sky, making unbelievable manoeuvres. It was moving so fast I could hardly keep it in my sights, but I managed to get three shots before it zipped away at fantastic speeds. I was stunned".

The photographs were examined by military experts and scientists at Hamilton's McMaster University for signs of trickery. One scientist reported: "All we can say with absolute certainty is that it is an unidentified flying object". Pat added: "I can't say how far away it was when I took the picture. It filled about a quarter of my lens. I was using a 135 mm telescopic lens which gives a pretty good enlargement. It was right over the city obviously at quite a height. It was moving so fast I kept losing it. I'm no expert, but it must have been going thousands of miles an hour to appear and disappear so fast". He said the craft appeared to give the impression of a metallic silvery surface. As evidenced by the photos, the object is the classic sombrero shape. The clearest shot, under enlargement, showed faint projections similar to legs extruding from the bottom of the craft.

Admitting that his opinions may not win many friends among his parliamentary colleagues, Dr. Maine hinted that the Government may have been concealing UFO information for some time....

-Adelaide Sunday Mail, 20/4/75.

POLICE CHIEF GETS A GOOD LOOK AT A UFO

White Lake (North Carolina) Police Chief, Gary Moore, had an extended confrontation with a brilliantly lit craft about 8.45 P.M. on April 3, 1975. Moore said he was driving at about 50 mph when the vehicle "came down" and "the whole side of the road lit up like it was daylight. I went on about 300 yards, stopped my patrol car, got out, looked in the air and the light was so bright I had to look away. I got a set of binoculars out of the car and I looked up at it. Then I got an airplane landing light that I carry in my patrol car and I shined it up there. I blinked the light at it, and it blinked back". Moore said that after the craft blinked its light, it "went straight up and out" at about 200 mph. He said that when he first observed it, "it came right down on top of me like it was going to get the car and I pulled over". He was about 200 feet from it and "got a good look at it", he said. Moore described the vehicle as 'V-shaped with lights around and one big light. It lit up an area of about 500 feet on either side of the road and made no sound. While the chief was looking at it, several cars stopped and others viewed the craft through Moore's binoculars. The vehicle hovered for about 5 minutes... A White Lake police officer, Sgt. J. C. Baxley, also reported seeing the craft.

- Phenomena Research Reporter, Vol. 2, No. 6. (Phenomena Research, P.O. Box 1807, Seattle, Wash., 98111)

BACK ISSUES OF "FLYING SAUCER REVIEW"

Seven different back issues of the Society's printed magazine, "Australian Flying Saucer Review", are still in stock. Those available are:

Nos. 6 (Dec. 66), 7 (67), 8 (68)....40¢ each (US50¢ overseas)

Nos. 2 (July 70), 3 (Dec. 70), 4 (Feb. 72), 5 (Dec. 72)....25¢ each (US35¢ overseas)

Postage charges:

For one copy24¢ within Australia, US30¢ overseas

Two to four copies33¢ " " , US45¢ "

Five to eight copies48¢ " " , US60¢ "

AUGUST, 1975.

THE HORSHAM SIGHTING

In the May Bulletin we reprinted an article from the Horsham Mail-Times describing two sightings made about a year apart, by Mr. Fred Randel, of Horsham. Society member Rodney Marrow, while in Horsham, tape-recorded an interview with Mr. Randel, who is a city council foreman. The following statements are transcribed from the tape, with some editing for ease of reading, and describe the sighting which occurred on 14/3/1975, at about one A.M., at the rear of his home:

I was looking straight up in the sky admiring the stars, and all of a sudden I had a funny feeling something was going to happen. I couldn't explain it, but - it was only a split second, it might have been one tenth of a second - when I had that feeling, that's all. I know for sure that I had the feeling before I saw the object. Now the object itself...didn't make me frightened at all. It's just like somebody put a hand of iron on your heart - something real cold, you know...

...As I was looking up I saw this great big thing. At the first moment it didn't seem really high at all - I nearly could touch it, sort of thing...There was no noise whatsoever...just like a glider in the night. But it was a fairly large object. It sort of appeared like a big shadow. Now the point is at that time there were no clouds at the height it travelled. I reckon - you know Noske's Flour Mill in Horsham - I don't know the exact height, but I think it would compare with a lot of other flour mills around country towns, and I think people would have a general idea of the highest spot of a flour mill and what distance it would be...

...I had a fairly good idea at the time that it wasn't anything like an aeroplane - aeroplanes have got wings. It seemed to appear to me a round shape, but by the same token it could have been slightly oval...

...It's surprising when you hear about flying saucers - they always say it was standing still, then whoosh - it was faster than any aeroplane. Well, the thing that I saw went in a steady line. It never wavered or went fast or slow. It just kept on at the same speed, and it wasn't that terribly fast...Estimated speed was that of a glider, or slightly faster. To me it was almost a glider only it didn't have the shape of a glider. If it was a glider, I would have recognised it immediately...I estimated the length of time as about six seconds. Now you must understand I didn't see it appear. I only saw it appear when it was almost directly above me, because behind me is the house, and from then on away from me, travelling towards the east...It kept the same altitude from the time I saw it first till it disappeared. Well, that's the way it appeared to me - it was clearly noticeable...

...I think it has a solid body. On the opposite side of the river there were lights. They were all sorts of colours. I thought I saw a reflection on it, and that means it's got to be a solid body, but I don't know what colour... I have good eyesight, my perception is very good. I'd say what I saw is definitely authentic, and I'd swear to it on the Bible...

...It appeared as a shadow. It appeared to be round, with no protrusions. Just imagine if you had a disc of some kind with a lamp or light on top - that was all you could see. Its size would be something like 100 feet..."

SILENT, BRILLIANT FLYING OBJECT WAS NOT AN AIRCRAFT

The following item appeared as a letter to the editor of the Papua-New Guinea Post Courier, 4/10/1974. Clipping kindly supplied by Society member Mrs. Helen Gray.

About 7 P.M. on September 25, I was sitting in the garden watching some swallows darting about in the moonlight catching insects and thinking what marvellous eyesight they must have. The night was clear and cloudless and a half-moon was nearly overhead. Then into my line of vision came what at first I took to be a small Cessna aircraft coming in to land at Wanigela airstrip.

I wondered if I could help in any way, and then I noticed that the "aircraft" was brilliantly illuminated in what I took to be the cabin, and that it was quite noiseless and was moving very slowly - not more than 10 knots an hour - in a northerly direction. Then I noticed that it didn't seem to have a fuselage, only several brilliant white lights in what I took to be the cabin of the craft. The brilliant lights were in the form of an egg with another one or two bright lights in what I took to be the tail section. Then the craft hovered for a few seconds and I decided it must be a helicopter. However, the complete lack of sound from the craft had me puzzled. It continued moving slowly in a northerly direction until it disappeared behind some trees.

During the time the craft was in my line of vision it could not have been more than two or three hundred feet from the ground and about a quarter of a mile from where I was sitting. It had come into my line of vision from a southerly direction, along the coast of Collingwood Bay.

Thinking about it afterwards, I realised that no aircraft would carry such brilliant white lights and have them all switched on while coming in for a landing. Also I had assumed that the craft had a fuselage by the positioning of the lights which formed an egg shape in what I took to be the cabin, with a couple of other brilliant white lights in what I took to be the tail section. However, these lights were very brilliant and white, and to my knowledge no aircraft carries that kind of lighting. Judging by the position of the lights I saw, I should say that the craft was about the size of a single-engine Cessna.

I was not the only person to sight the UFO. When our local staff reported for work the following morning some of them said they had distinctly seen the craft. My wife reported the sighting to DCA the following morning and the officer she spoke to said they had no report of any aircraft being in the Wanigela area at that time.

A. E. Cridland, Wanigela, N. G.

PILOT SIGHTING IDENTIFIED AS SPACE DEBRIS

The March 6 sighting by a pilot mentioned in the May Bulletin has been explained by the Department of Defence as falling satellite debris. The sighting was investigated by the Centre For UFO Studies - Australian Coordination Section, and from a letter to the Centre from the Department, the following is quoted:

"After consulting with the Weapons Research Establishment at Adelaide, it appears that the object was a piece of space debris from a satellite fired into orbit in 1968. It had been predicted that debris from this satellite would fall in the Adelaide area on 5th March, 1975. The 24 hour discrepancy between the prediction and the event is not unusual, as it is extremely difficult to forecast the re-entry time of a satellite once the orbit becomes unstable. The description 'green meteor', which was mentioned in the transcript, indicates a high copper content in the projectile".

The CUFOS-ACOS investigators stated to the witness: "Checking thoroughly through all the information relevant to the case once more, we go along with this explanation as being what was seen by yourself and the crew". The witness has agreed that this "would seem to finalise the matter".

SIGHTING OVER MELBOURNE ... AND MORE ABOUT APRIL, 1974

A report to the Society from a Melbourne man reads as follows:

Wednesday, 28th May, 1975. On Wednesday evening at 5.45 P.M. I was driving east along Malvern Road through Malvern when I noticed two exceptionally bright lights in the northern sky. At arm's length they were about two inches apart and travelling together from east to west, just a little slower than one would normally see a passenger flight going into Melbourne along a similar flight path. Nevertheless the lights disappeared in about ten minutes over the south west of Melbourne from the point of initial observation which was due north from Malvern.

It could be assumed that they were reflections of a car's headlights, because they gave the appearance of similar intensity and spacing, if it were not for two things: firstly, that was the most obvious suggestion to come to mind, and I viewed the objects from several different positions to determine whether they were reflections; I was satisfied they weren't. But secondly, some pedestrians in the street obviously saw the same phenomena and stared and pointed at the lights as I was driving past - but this is an assumption because heavy traffic at the time prevented me from stopping the car and confirming this with them.

I also discounted the possibility that the phenomena were planets or stars. It is true that each light was shining with the intensity of Venus at its brightest, and they eventually disappeared in the approximate location one can observe Venus setting in at this time of year at about 7.15 or so. However, Venus does not travel through 90 degrees of azimuth in ten minutes, nor does it have a twin alongside it.

Probably the temptation under these circumstances then is to say the lights were those of an aircraft, since it was travelling along a path similar to an established flight path for commercial craft approaching Melbourne for some of the time it was observed. But fortunately a commercial aircraft came on the scene at the time and the differences were obvious. The bulk and shape of the plane was clearly observable, even though it appeared to be more distant and at a greater height than the twin white lights: the shape associated with the lights was not distinguishable although from the constancy of the relative positions of the lights I believe the lights were at either end of some form of craft, unless they were separate bodies perfectly synchronised in movement. The lighting pattern of the commercial aircraft was typically distinctive and appropriately spaced with red and green lights as well as a white light showing. But it's in the latter that the main difference was obvious: the lights of the aircraft were dim by comparison with the twin light phenomena: the twin lights looked like searchlights when seen in the twilight sky. I waited in vain for a news report of the strange sighting.

All this being said, I have no doubt that this phenomenon was a UFO - but for other reasons. The 'other reasons' go back just over two years. It was early in 1973* when there was a lot of publicity in Melbourne given to the reported 'chase' of a police car by a UFO with twin bright lights, which was observed at length from the top of the Melbourne police Headquarters by the officers concerned and some of their colleagues who were brought out to confirm the sighting of the object. Two days later the Melbourne public were told these twin lights were actually Venus and Mars and that the police officers had been mistaken. It is understandable if other witnesses to the same object in the same week were loath to make statements under a prevailing atmosphere of ridicule. I was one of the other witnesses at that time.

The weekend following the police reports of this twin light phenomenon my family of five saw the same phenomenon fairly close for some fifteen minutes. On that occasion, the time was identical - about 5.45 P.M. on the Saturday evening. My wife was preparing tea in the kitchen when she was surprised to see these lights and called the rest of us to see them. From the backdoor of our house in East Burwood, the lights were approximately northwest and stationary for ten minutes or so over an area that could have been Box Hill or Camberwell districts. The right hand side light was very much brighter than the left on that occasion and it was obvious they were either end of a vehicle of some sort, for the bulk of it was visible and even at that distance of about a couple of miles, appeared to be about half the size of a house roof.

The 1973 sighting occurred well below the cloud level - and the sky was fairly heavily overcast. No stars, or Venus and Mars, would have been visible beneath that cloud cover, even had they decided to shine several hours earlier than the normal for that time of year. But anyone witnessing what happened in the last two minutes or so of that sighting would have no doubt it was a craft of some sort. As we all stood staring at it from the back porch of the house, the dim light suddenly brightened in intensity to match the brightest one. Then the two lights which appeared at that distance to be more than a foot or so apart, merged as if a huge neon tube were lighting up in the sky at tree top level. As a long dazzling white tube like thing it began to move very slowly to the northwards from the stationary point it had occupied for some ten minutes or so. Then, momentarily, it was gone! We ran along the street to a major highway nearby hoping to get another view of it without being obstructed by sundry buildings and trees - but there was no sign of it in the vicinity: it had completely disappeared.

I recall this 1973 sighting now only because I am convinced that the object I saw on 28th May 1975 was an identical phenomenon, but not seen to such advantage.

(* The witness later agreed that he was mistaken about the 1973 date, and that the sighting occurred, in fact in April, 1974)

According to press reports from several states, a "flap" of UFO activity was at full intensity in mid-April, 1974. The police incidents referred to by the writer of the above statement were reported in the Melbourne Herald of 15/4/74 in a headline article with the title: "UFOs Chased Us, Say Policewomen. SCARY NIGHT OF LIGHTS". The article told how a frightened woman burst into the Russell St. police HQ at 4.30 A.M. on April 15, claiming that two flying lights had swooped down over her car. The woman, a journalist, and three police then went to the roof of the building where they all observed two strange lights hovering above the city. Later, two policewomen arrived and said that the lights had chased them along Studley Park Road, Kew. Other witnesses reported seeing similar lights. The February bulletin carried a report of a St. Kilda woman's claim that on two successive nights a "Bun-shaped" flying object had hovered in close proximity to her flat in a high-rise block, and then flown away. The woman could not remember the dates, but thought they were probably during Easter, which would put them close to the time of the police incidents, possibly even the same night.

Many UFO observations were reported in other states during this mid-April period, including the following:

* April 8. A crowd of about 50 people watched a strange object at Latrobe, Tasmania. At 7 P.M. "a single light grey light, like a big ball of fairy floss" was seen to move slowly in a southeasterly direction, disappearing after about 15 minutes. Later the same night, a glowing red object was seen circling in an arc for some time in the vicinity of the Burnie wharves.

* April 8. At 9.15 P.M. at the Ballarat Drive-In, three witnesses saw a glowing object moving from east to west below cloud level. The oval-shaped object appeared to be spinning and flashing red, green and blue lights.

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APRIL, 1974 (Continued).

- * April 12. Mrs. Hyland, of Havilah, near Mudgee, N.S.W.: "At about 7.30 P.M. on Friday night I walked outside and saw above the trees to the north of the cottage two lights beaming down, one large, one small. I thought nothing of it, I wasn't even thinking of UFOs or little green men at the time...They sort of came together and parted". Almost simultaneously she said she heard, "a swishing noise like electric trains make when passing one another, the rosella kicked up a fuss, the dog started to bark and the TV went sputter then blacked out".
- * April 12. A man and two 16 year old lads were fishing in the Castlereagh River near Coonabarabran, N.S.W., when at about 10.10 P.M. a large luminous object approached them. It resembled a large letter H with bars across the centre. The object had no lights, did not make any noise, and did not appear to contain any heat. The object was seen for several minutes before it swooped out of sight over nearby trees.
- * April 14. At 3.30 A.M. two witnesses on a beach at Bridport, Tas., heard a muffled diesel sound with a constant hissing, and two lights were then seen approaching from the NW. When closer, the larger elliptical yellow disc shone a beam of light onto the beach. The smaller disc stayed just below and to the left of the large object. The two objects went away slowly to the NE. (TUFOIC report)
- * April 14. At 7.40 P.M. in a northern suburb of Adelaide, a stationary object was seen in the NW at 75°. It disappeared, came back again, dropped down, and finally hovered in a NE 75° direction. It consisted of a bright oval light from a cabin, and within this a dark figure like a seat or a person. On the right side of this appeared a red light and on the other side a blue light which flashed on and off. They all then blinked out after about 5 minutes. (AIFRS, Adelaide report)
- * Constables Joe Meynink and Ron Fellington were alerted when a terrified property owner rushed into the Parkes, NSW Police Station shortly after 3 A.M. on April 15. The two constables said the UFOs had made a fluttering noise as they moved east across the mountains. Constable Fellington said the objects looked like helicopters with winking landing lights. "We distinctly saw two sets of these lights moving in formation...They were making a sound like a sewing machine", he said.
- * April 15. Four Elizabeth, S.A. schoolgirls were terrified when a brilliant light descended and hovered over them for 3 minutes. The two 14 year old girls who described the incident said: "It came down from a dark cloud just behind Elizabeth Technical School...It was a round flying thing, just like a light, with a blue light flashing in the middle. It started moving towards us - it must have been about 10 feet above the ground when it stopped". The girls said the object was round, but flat at the base. The mother of one of the girls said her daughter had telephoned her from Elizabeth and was close to hysterics. The Bureau of Meteorology was reported as saying there was "no apparent reason for sky lights".
- * April 15. Woodside, S.A., 7.30 P.M. Said 17 year old Irene Bajev: "I first saw the lights a fair way away and thought they were from a plane. But then they got closer and I saw three beams of light from the object - and there was no sound. My friend stopped the car and we got out. Another car with about four people also stopped behind our car. The object was about 4,000 to 5,000 feet up moving very quickly in a south easterly direction. The car appeared to lose power as the object came closer - just before we pulled up and got out. Later on a plane flew overhead and you could hear quite distinctly". Her sketch showed an elliptical object with a string of "portholes" around the middle, and three "searchlights", two beaming downwards and one upwards.
- Another witness was Peter Henningsen, 18, who said that the UFO looked metallic. The lights from the dome were reflecting on a ridge around it, and it gave off a metallic shimmering effect. "It was an eerie experience. The spherical base of the object was spinning slowly. There were four bright lights shining from the dome".
- What might have been the same object was seen by a Belair resident at 7.28 P.M. She said she saw a brightly lit large object fly overhead faster than any plane she had seen. It had made no noise and had disappeared towards Tungkillo (near Woodside), flying below cloud level. At the same time, 7.30 P.M., an 8 year old French boy at Modbury North saw a silent, slow-moving "something" in the sky about 500 yards away. His sister, Miss Jean Loudres Garniear, said he had been terrified because he thought it was chasing him. "Andre never lies to me and he hasn't read the papers, watched TV or talked about UFO sightings...he can't speak English", said Miss Garniear.
- * April 15. Two 16 year old girls at Berri, near Renmark, saw three strange lights at 7.55 P.M. There was no sound, and the lights, which were described as "bright white like street lights", kept flashing on and off. The lights appeared to be travelling "lower than a plane would normally travel" and kept spinning around, keeping a triangular shape in formation. They were moving "at a good speed" and disappeared after about 5 minutes. The girls described the experience as "spooky".
- * April 15. A man at North Glenelg, S.A., said that at 8.05 P.M. he saw an object moving in circles at about 35,000 feet. The object was a faint orange colour and flashed a bright light several times. It remained overhead for about 5 minutes, then moved slowly to the east before disappearing.
- * April 16. 8.15 P.M. Three witnesses at Burnie, Tas., watched manoeuvering lights for over two hours. The main light was rectangular blue white, with red flashing colours. A smaller light came and went from the SE, the main light went away north. (TUFOIC report)
- * April 16. Wattle Park, S.A. 8.30 P.M. Seven people observed an oval shaped dark coloured object. It had three white lights underneath with an orange light from a dome on top...WRE admitted that their planes were in the area and the witnesses could see these as small lights and they were following the object until it went out of sight. The planes then turned, circled a number of times and landed. No doubt they also had a great interest in the object. (AIFRS report)

Something was seen at 8.20 P.M. on the same night at Murray Bridge. It was first seen by a high school student who pointed it out to Craig Hattam, 16. He described it as follows: "John pointed to the object and said he had seen three lights underneath it. I looked up and saw something, too, although it seemed to have just one big light shining from it. The light seemed to be rotating, covered up at each end of the object and appearing as it got to the middle...It didn't make a sound for the entire 3 or 4 minutes we watched it before it went out of sight. I couldn't tell for sure what it was, but it was certainly travelling much too fast for a plane and it didn't have a tail light as planes do - it was just one huge orange light".

All these manifestations were generally dismissed by experts as the optical effects of the planets Jupiter and Venus, although the Adelaide Advertiser of April 17 reported: "An RAAF spokesman who has taken 16 UFO reports since Monday night said late last night that no one had been able to explain some of the sightings". Perhaps some of the people are fooled some of the time, but it's pretty hard to believe that the twinkling of Jupiter and Venus was the only thing happening in the sky during April, 1974.

AUGUST, 1975.

MORE TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS

More UFO sightings were made in Tasmania last year than for many years. 1974 was something of a "flap" year, according to the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre, which investigated 133 reports and could not find any explanation for 37 of them. TUFCIC's 1975 annual report (25¢, available from the Sec., 366 Huon Rd., Sth. Hobart, 7000) contains the details of sightings galore, including an unprecedented number of low-level cases.

Another spectacular sighting occurred on February 26, 1975 at Lake Sorell, central Tasmania. The principal witness is a comfortably off professional man, ex-tail gunner in the RAAF, and a competent artist. Journalist Mac Moult was present when the witness was interviewed by TUFOIC investigator, Ken Bennetto, and Moult writes:

On February 26, Smith (pseudonym) was at Lake Sorell with his companion, who incidentally is a commercial artist. They were camped at Shepherd's Shore, looking forward to a week's angling. It was 8.45 P.M., and there was some day-light left. Smith, out of the corner of his eye, noticed three things in the sky. His first thought was that they were "aircraft or something". It was not long before he saw them again through the broken cloud, and realised they could not be aircraft. They were flying in from the north east. There appeared to be two big units, and a smaller unit. "It seemed most unusual", he said. He lost sight of them for a few minutes, then picked up two of them as they travelled south west towards Lake Sorell. They stopped over Dog's Head Point, and were lost to view in broken cloud. They were then seen going towards Mt. Penny. Smith did not realise it, but he was to get the shock of his life.

Underneath each craft was a red pulsing light set in the centre, with other red to orange lights running around the corona. The UFOs stood out clearly. Then one of them moved... It came out of the broken cloud straight towards him. "It was about 2½ miles away when we saw it move - and then it was right there only 1,000 yards away, and 500 feet above the lake", he said.

Smith is quite definite that there is no time factor that can be applied to the time it took the craft to cover the two miles. "It was less than a second - it was 2½ miles away, and then it was only yards away - I've never seen anything like it". Smith said that if he had not seen it himself, he would not have believed a craft could have such performance. He said he felt apprehensive: "I thought something cataclysmic was going to happen", he said. Smith said the craft was nothing less than 200 feet in diameter: "It was fantastic", he said.

During the next few minutes the UFO turned on a monstrous light which was directed downwards towards the lake. The light was about half the diameter of the UFO, and the shaft of the light was well-defined. It came from one side of the underneath of the UFO. The light was so intense it hurt his eyes: "I would say it was similar to the light you get from a welding torch", Smith said. Smith took careful sightings on hills in the area which he knows intimately. The spill of light from around the main shaft illuminated a distance of 1½ miles around the lake. The beam of light was swung back and forth in an arc: "It seemed like a careful search of the Robinson's Swamp area, and I have no doubt that that beam of light was intelligently controlled", Smith said.

Smith had a big tent set up at the lakeside, together with cover for the car. The car's radio was being used because a portable radio he had was not strong enough to pick up radio stations. When the UFO flew close to the camp site, the car radio emitted a loud "intense staticy noise". Still watching the action, Smith traversed the radio dial across the whole band, but he could not pick up one radio station: "There was just the static", he said. After its inspection of the area, the UFO put out its gigantic light beam. A blue-white phosphorescence was left hanging about 30 feet above the lake. Smith said once the main light had dulled, the shape of the UFO was in good definition.

The UFO "departed in a flash". It travelled at phenomenal speed, and Smith said its path away from him through the night sky - together with the sister UFO which had been waiting near Mt. Penny - was like watching a tracer bullet going away from you. It was then 9.30 P.M. Smith and his companion had been treated to 45 minutes.

Smith and his friend made sketches of what they had seen, and notes of all their observations. "We kept going over it to make sure we had all the details right - it was unbelievable", Smith said.

The next day, they met some anglers who had seen the UFO light up the sky. The anglers had been camped one mile away at Silver Plains. "They told me they were in their tent and all of a sudden the tent was lit up inside like daylight", he said. Other people at the end of Silver Plains also saw the same thing. (Saturday Evening Mercury, 29/3/1975)

Another sighting, which has been logged as a UFO by TUFOIC, was made by New Norfolk taxi driver, Roy Garwood, at 8.30 P.M. on Friday, April 18:

Mr. Garwood noticed what appeared to be arc-welding sparks in a paddock near where Mr. T. Terry's property adjoins the Hayes Gaol Farm. He did not take much notice at first, but then, wondering what the mysterious flashes of light could be, he stopped for a better look. Mr. Garwood said that whatever it was, it could have come over the brow of the hill from the gaol farm. As he watched from the roadside, the object rose, and flew off over the nearby range of hills. As it rose slowly, the UFO was throwing off sparks "from its back end". The sparks changed colour from the bright white-blue an arc welder gives to a golden colour as they faded. "I never believed in UFOs - in fact I've never taken much notice of what has been in the papers - but I feel differently about it now", Mr. Garwood said.

...A further report of what is believed to be the same UFO being seen by a couple as they were driving to Bothwell is being investigated. (Derwent Valley Gazette, 23/4/1975)

And the latest sighting occurred on June 26, near Runnymede:

The sighting has been checked out by Mr. K. Bennetto of the TUFCIC. "It definitely was a UFO that was seen... there were no aircraft about at the time, and the DCA can give no logical account for it", he said. The sighting was made by Mr. Douglas Newell, of Howrah, as he was heading towards Hobart about 7 P.M. He stopped when he saw lights in a roadside paddock, and a closer look showed the lights to be at the bottom of a dome shaped "metallic object". Mr. Newell estimated the UFO to be up to 18 feet in diameter, and about 30 to 40 feet above the ground. The red lights at the bottom of the UFO pulsed on and off. Mr. Newell said he watched the craft move from side to side, and then it moved towards him. The UFO was estimated to be 300 to 400 yards from the road when he first saw it. It was dark, and Mr. Newell agreed that the UFO could have been bigger than his estimate of about 18 feet diameter. Shaken by what he had seen, he got into his car and drove off as the UFO came towards him. The UFO did not follow him, but continued in a slow north westerly direction. It made no sound. Mr. Newell was shown a picture painted by an artist who saw a giant UFO at Lake Sorell earlier this year. "It's the same design, I'd swear to it", Mr. Newell told Mr. Bennetto. (Saturday Evening Mercury, 28/6/1975)

"SAUCER" SIGHTED?

On Saturday afternoon at approximately 5.20 P.M. four Coonamble boys - John Bacon, Brent Foodey, Alan Baker and Barry Baker - saw a strange object in the sky to the north of Coonamble. The boys described the object as a "big silver disc with a big light on top". It made a "buzzing" sound. The object travelled towards Walgett and then abruptly disappeared, leaving the boys to believe that they had seen a "flying saucer" or UFO. Their conviction that this was so was deepened by the fact that it looked like nothing they had ever seen. Also the boys believe that because the object moved too fast, left no smoke trail and made a peculiar sound, that it could not be any conventional form of air transport.

- Coonamble (NSW) Times, 13/3/1975

AUGUST, 1975.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT?

Ruth L. Henry, of Bonshaw, reports an unusual object in the sky last week. She said that about 10 miles from Inglewood on the Texas Road at 9.45 A.M. on Tuesday a most peculiar object was sighted. "An odd lighted object appeared in the sky", she wrote. "Two tubes of light about two feet long were suspended in the sky and the 'tails' grew longer as it came closer until overhead when they were 12 to 15 feet long and appeared like two plumes of cascading spray of light. A metal connection between the lights had a long projection with a light at the top". - Stanthorpe(Q) Border Post, 27/5/1975.

NOISY UFO

Is there life on other planets? It's a question that has been posed by thousands of people throughout the world as more and more sightings of UFOs are made public - and an event near Molongle Creek last week has added three more to the numbers who have sighted the strange objects that frequent our skies. Two young Home Hill men were sitting on a bank of Molongle Creek on part of a cattle property at 7.15 P.M. on Wednesday, 14th May, when an object appeared about 500 yards away. The men concerned described it as being round, about 12 feet across, and it hovered about 150 feet from the ground for a minute. It had glided in quietly, with a red light flashing on top and an orange light underneath shining continuously. However, when it took off, it made a noise "louder than that of a large jet aircraft". The UFO returned again to the opposite bank of the Creek and was this time seen by the father of one of the boys. When the object took off, the orange light underneath went out. The experience of the three men has been described as "terrifying" and will add to the growing list of UFOs that will probably remain unidentified. We have been told that we could name those involved, but we will save them from the "ribbing" from the sceptics who have yet to see a UFO, and allow them to remain anonymous.

-Home Hill (Q) Observer, 23/5/1975.

MYSTERY OF "BIG DISC" IN THE SKY

A UFO ringed by light glided over Guildford and Bassendean last night, a man has claimed. Mr. Jim Moxon, 40, of Leonora St., Como, said he watched "a big disc" for about 5 minutes as it moved slowly along the Swan River. He saw the UFO, flying about 650 metres high, at 2.55A.M. from Bell Bros. yard in Great Eastern Highway, where he was on night shift. It was a big disc surrounded by lights and revolving. Mr. Moxon said he rang Perth Airport and was told a Jumbo jet had just landed. But Mr. Moxon said the object was bigger than a jet, made no noise, and did not have the bright flashing lights of an aircraft. The RAAF said no reports had been received.

(Clipping from an unknown paper, dated 4/6/1975, sent by VUFORS member Jeff Bell)

FIVE MEN GET CLOSE LOOK AT "FLYING SAUCER"

Five Yamba men pursued a bright orange and green "flying saucer" along the Yamba Road on Tuesday night until it apparently landed in a cane field on Harwood Island. One of the men first saw the object about 7.30 P.M., hovering over the Blue Dolphin Caravan Park in Yamba, while he was driving to his brother's home just outside Yamba. The men watched the object from Mr. Frank Cain's house on the Yamba Road for about half an hour before deciding to try and get a closer look.

Mr. Cain said yesterday they had followed the object from Yamba to Harwood Island, where it finally disappeared. At one stage, they were within 200 yards of the saucer. "It kept ahead of us and kept getting really bright", he said. "It was saucer shaped with a dome on top, a red light underneath and a red light at either end". Mr. Cain estimated the object to be at least 30 feet in diameter. It was pulsating orange and green during the entire time the men had it in sight - about an hour.

"It was moving fast, but there was no noise", he said. "We followed in the car until it crossed the river. The object just hovered like a helicopter for a while and then slowly dropped lower and lower until it disappeared behind some trees in a cane field". Mr. Cain estimated the object was about 800 yards away when it disappeared. "I could pinpoint its landing place easily enough", he said.

A UFO expert, currently in Grafton investigating the mysterious circle of dead grass discovered on a Doughboy property some weeks ago, said the sighting sounded very much like a similar one about this time last year when an object was seen hovering over Susan Island.

-Grafton Daily Examiner, 5/6/1975.

In a letter to the editor of the Examiner, 10/6/1975, Bill Chalker, Sydney industrial chemist, and an investigator for the Sydney UFOIC, writes:

Sir - Following investigations by myself and a local associate, into the reported sighting of a UFO along Yamba Road last Tuesday night, we have been able to draw some tentative conclusions. On the basis of the witnesses testimonies, mundane explanations can be ruled out and certain events have suggested that the incident may have occurred as described. These independent events include sightings of moving lights by Yamba fishermen and a number of Maclean residents, and disturbances among animals on Harwood Island in the vicinity of the alleged landing area. To date, no landing site has been verified, although the area has had a number of reported landing impressions in the past, supported in some cases by an associated UFO sighting.

The circular impression discovered on the Doughboy property on May 7 is similar to those found in the past throughout the world. Because of the fact that the circle has experienced some deterioration subsequent to its discovery and because there was no associated UFO reported in the vicinity, it is thought that there is little possibility of any definite conclusion.

SKY OBJECT "NOT AN AEROPLANE"

Two observers of a strange object in the sky on Tuesday night repudiate any suggestion that it was a 727 aircraft following its flight path from Adelaide to Perth. They are Mr. D. L. White, Dunlop Tyre Service manager at Port Lincoln, and Mr. W. Lynch, Dunlop manager at Wudinna. They were travelling together toward Wyalla last Tuesday afternoon when they saw the object. There was "no way" that the object was an aeroplane, Mr. White said. "For a start, about four 727 aircraft could be fitted into the cigar shaped object. It wasn't an aeroplane, for sure. For almost 15 minutes it hovered, and barely moved. Looking at it side-on, it was cigar shaped, and appeared to have a light at one end. There were no extrusions on the craft", Mr. White said.

"We sighted it about 20 miles from Whyalla, above the range of hills. It seemed to hover about 200 feet above the hills. When it finally took off, it disappeared in seconds, leaving a trail of vapour. The object didn't have wings and was certainly not an aircraft".

Both Mr. White and Mr. Lynch expressed themselves as "amazed" at their sighting. "We'd both heard about UFOs, but this was our first experience of one", Mr. White said. "We were so intrigued that we flagged down a Mr. and Mrs. Creek who were travelling to Whyalla from Cowell, and they were equally impressed".

-Whyalla News, 13/6/1975.

SIX PEOPLE CLAIM SIGHTING OF UFO

Six Maryborough people claimed yesterday that they had been frightened by an unidentified flying object while they were travelling in a car on the Bruce Highway across the Gunalda Range on Wednesday night. In the car were William Houston, Warren Witherington, Tony Wynne, Kerry Cravigan, Jan Cairns and Dale Cravigan. They said they first noticed two lights travelling diagonally across their path at a height of about 400 feet, and they thought them to be plane lights. Soon after, several other lights appeared, and as they stopped the car there were six lights visible out of the separate windows of the car. The object vanished as soon as the interior light had been turned on in the car, they said.

-Maryborough (Q) Chronicle, 14/6/1975.

UFO SIGHTED BY BOYS NEAR MARYBOROUGH

Maryborough, June 19 - The third UFO sighting in the Maryborough district in the past few weeks was reported here by two Hervey Bay youths, Tony Wynne, 16, and Warren Witherington, 17. The boys, of 6 Edward St., Urangan, said that they had seen flashing lights in the sky over Dayman Point, Urangan, about 7.30 P.M. yesterday. About 50 people in the area had also seen the lights.

The boys said it was an eerie weird experience. The appearance of the lights had caused all the neighbourhood dogs to bark and cats to howl. "We were afflicted with pains in the neck and tried wrapping hot towels around our necks, but this had no effect. We knew when the lights had gone because the pain left our necks suddenly".

He said that when they first saw the lights they were walking to a shop to make a telephone call. The lights appeared to follow them. "The lights seemed to be flashing up and down, then they split into two sections". He added that he and Warren had seen the flashing lights reported at Gunalda last week. - Townsville (Q) Bulletin, 20/6/1975.

MORE UFOS SIGHTED NEAR MARYBOROUGH

Rainy weather and overcast skies have not brought a halt to the spate of UFOs sighted in the Maryborough district for more than a week. Mr. Greg Curtis, of Maryborough, said last night that he and several friends had spent almost three hours watching objects in the sky from a house at Riverview, on the Hervey Bay Road, earlier in the night.

Mr. Curtis said that they had first seen the bright, yellowish lights hovering in the sky about 7.20 P.M., and they had appeared and disappeared in groups of two or three, with as many as six at a time. The lights had moved up and down as they had hovered and had faded out in a blur, travelling in a downwards direction, when they disappeared. They had reappeared as small lights getting bigger, as though they had been travelling towards the house.

Mr. Curtis said that the lights had definitely not been those of aeroplanes. He and his friends had looked at the objects through night binoculars, but the lights had then become so bright that they had been difficult to watch....

-Maryborough Chronicle, 20/6/1975.

MORE UFOS ARE SIGHTED

...Mrs. M. Walton, of Bell St., said that she had watched a strange object in the sky for about three of four minutes on Tuesday night. Mrs. Walton said that at about 6 P.M. she had seen an object with brightly flashing lights moving slowly behind the trees at the lower end of Bell St.

"It seemed to reconnoitre as far as the hockey grounds where it rose higher and could be seen more plainly above the trees. It was tambourine-shaped with five flashing lights on the side facing me. It seemed to hover for a few seconds and then with a whirl of lights it shot out of sight. I was always a sceptic where UFOs were concerned but will never be again after that experience", said Mrs. Walton.

A bright light which appeared in the north western sky last night caused some consternation among Maryborough people after the spate of light sightings this week. The light dimmed and brightened and was clearly visible at 7.30 P.M. Well-known Maryborough astronomer Mr. Mervyn Jones, when asked about a possible source of a bright light in that area, said Venus was "very well-presented" in the north western sky at this time of the year. However, he had not noticed the planet last night because of the heavy cloud cover.

Another possible reason for earlier sightings may have been parachute flares being used on Army exercises at Tin Can Bay. However, duty officers at Victoria Barracks and Enoggera Barracks last night confirmed that there was no special Army activity at present in the Tin Can Bay area. Engineers at present were almost continuously in the area, but Victoria Barracks had no knowledge of flares being used recently by engineers.

Mr. A. E. Odorico, of Dundowran, said that he had sighted strange objects in the sky from a hill at Dundowran at 7.30 P.M. last Saturday. He had mentioned them only to his family, but had decided to contact the Chronicle because of the other published reports of sightings. He said that he had seen two lights, similar to car lights, but not shining forward. "I thought I was starting to see things so I looked away, but they were still there when I looked back and the next minute they were gone". Mr. Odorico said that he believed the lights had some spiritual source rather than interplanetary. He felt that a meeting should be arranged of all those who have sighted the UFOs in the last week so that comparisons could be made.

Mr. Ian Short, of Maryborough, said that he had seen strange lights while fishing in Boonooroo Creek on Thursday night. The lights had risen above the forestry trees to the south and had hovered, moving up and down and giving off a reddish yellow glow. He said that the light had appeared small, like a large star at first, but had become quite bright before it disappeared... -Maryborough Chronicle, 21/6/1975.

A UFO! BRIGHT LIGHTS AND ALL

A Queensland man claims he has sighted an unidentified flying object in the Coonabarabran district. He says the UFO was sighted on the road between Narrabri and Coonabarabran. Mr. Eric Falkenburger, of the Gold Coast, Queensland, has informed Dubbo UFO watcher, Mr. Maurie Morandini, about the sighting.

"Mr. Falkenburger was extremely excited by the sighting", Mr. Morandini said. "He told me he saw a bright object at about 7.45 P.M. He said the object passed within 500 metres of him and another motorist and seemed to be travelling slowly about 10 metres above the tree tops. Mr. Falkenburger said the object was brightly illuminated. He said it suddenly shot off at great speed and as it went bright cone shaped searchlights suddenly shone from the object".

Mr. Morandini said he was extremely interested by the UFO sighting. He has been gathering material on UFOs for many years... -Dubbo Liberal, 25/6/1975.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE WANTED

The Society would like to hear from anybody interested in assisting in sightings investigation. People who may be able to help should preferably have their own car and telephone, plus spare time available to interview witnesses and write up investigation reports. If anyone feels that they can be of assistance, would they please write to the Secretary, VUFORS, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, 3189.